

(4) Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (6 UST 3516).

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined today by Senator GORDON SMITH as I submit a concurrent resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Fifty years ago the United States joined 187 nations in establishing in international law the four articles of the modern Geneva Convention. These articles are the pillars of international law regarding the treatment of uniformed sick and wounded, prisoners of war, and civilians in times of armed conflict. Their existence serves to constantly remind us of our responsibility to treat all victims of war with the dignity each of us deserves.

These Conventions recognize the International Committee of the Red Cross as an independent and neutral organization whose humanitarian mission is to protest and assist the victims of armed conflict. The International Red Cross is supported, in turn, by national societies such as the American Red Cross and the many other Red Cross and Red Crescent national agencies. Through the years, these organizations have worked tirelessly to bring relief to the suffering around the world whether due to natural disaster or human conflict. Their dedication and compassion have touched the lives of millions of people in all countries and are today at work in the Balkans, Africa, South America, and, tragically, in our own state of Oklahoma in response to the recent massive tornado.

I ask your support for this resolution that commemorates mankind's first major step to codify into international law the respect and dignity that we must foster for each other. The four articles of the Geneva Convention and the formation of the organizations flying the Red Cross and Red Crescent stand as milestones in humanity's progress towards a more civilized world. With this resolution we recognize the historic and humanitarian significance of the Conventions and commend the Red Cross and Red Crescent agencies worldwide for their unflagging efforts to protect the principles of international humanitarian law.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the Public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-628 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "ESEA: Title I: Evaluation and Reform." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the Public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Thursday, May 13, 1999, 10 a.m., in SD-628 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is the nomination of Richard McGahey. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND REGULATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 2:30 p.m. in SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 924, the Federal Royalty Certainty Act, introduced April 29, 1999.

Because of limited time available for each hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Dan Kish at (202) 224-4971.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE CLEAN MONEY/CLEAN ELECTIONS ACT

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to speak before you today about a critical challenge before this Senate—the challenge of reforming the way in which elections are conducted in the United States; the challenge of ending the "moneyocracy" that has turned our elections into auctions where public office is sold to the highest bidder. I want to implore the Congress to take meaningful steps this year to ban soft money, strengthen the Federal Election Commission, provide candidates the opportunity to pay for their campaigns with clean money, and the growing trend of dangerous sham issue ads, and meet the ultimate goal of restoring the rights of average Americans to have a stake in their democracy. Today I am proud to join with my colleague from Minnesota, PAUL WELLSTONE, to introduce the "Clean Money" bill which I believe will help all of us entrusted to shape public policy to arrive at a point where we can truly say we are rebuilding Americans' faith in our democracy.

For the last 10 years, I have stood before you to push for comprehensive campaign reform. We have made nips and tucks at the edges of the system, but we have always found excuses to hold us back from making the system work. It's long past time that we act—in a comprehensive way—to curtail the way in which soft money and the big special interest dollars are crowding ordinary citizens out of this political system.

Today the political system is being corrupted because there is too much unregulated, misused money circulating in an environment where candidates will do anything to get elected and where, too often, the special interests set the tone of debate more than the political leaders or the American people. Just consider the facts for a moment. The rising cost of seeking political office is outrageous. In 1996, House and Senate candidates spent more than \$765 million, a 76% increase since 1990 and a six fold increase since 1976. Since 1976, the average cost for a winning Senate race went from \$600,000 to \$3.3 million, and in the arms race for campaign dollars in 1996 many of us were forced to spend significantly more than that. In constant dollars, we have seen an increase of over 100 percent in the money spent for Senatorial races from 1980 to 1994. Today Senators often spend more time on the phone "dialing for dollars" than on the Senate floor. The average Senator must raise \$12,000 a week for six years to pay for his or her re-election campaign.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. The use of soft money has exploded. In 1988, Democrats and Republicans raised a combined \$45 million in soft money. In 1992 that number doubled to reach \$90 million and in 1995-96 that number tripled to \$262 million. This trend continues in this cycle. What's the impact of all that soft money? It means that the special interests are being heard. They're the ones with the influence. But ordinary citizens can't compete. Fewer than one third of one percent of eligible voters donated more than \$250 in the electoral cycle of 1996. They're on the sidelines in what is becoming a coin-operated political system.

The American people want us to act today to forge a better system. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll shows that 77% of the public believes that campaign finance reform is needed "because there is too much money being spent on political campaigns, which leads to excessive influence by special interests and wealthy individuals at the expense of average people." Last spring a New York Times found that an astonishing 91% of the public favor a fundamental transformation of this system.

Cynics say that the American people don't care about campaign finance. It's not true. Citizens just don't believe we'll have the courage to act—they're